

March 13, 2020

To our valued Calgary Humane Society Community,

The Management Team at Calgary Humane Society are working diligently to ensure we are prepared with a coordinated response to protect our employees, volunteers and the public at large from transmitting novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

At this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for the general population in Canada. This could change rapidly and Alberta Health Services anticipates the risk may increase in the coming weeks. Calgary Humane Society is taking extra precautions with our response to COVID-19.

To mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, Calgary Humane Society has developed a three phase approach to the situation. We are currently in phase one of this plan and will continue to monitor the situation very closely.

Calgary Humane Society's phase one protocols include the following:

- CHS will not allow any individuals who have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days to enter the building. This includes members of the public, staff, volunteers, foster parents and contractors.
- All staff, volunteers and foster parents exhibiting any flu-like symptoms must remain home until they are cleared by a medical professional to return to their duties at CHS.
- Hand sanitizers will be provided at all entrances to the shelter. Staff, volunteers and visitors will be required to use them upon entrance and wash their hands frequently as they move about the shelter.
- Common surfaces will be disinfected multiple times a day and all cleaning protocols will be completed using hospital-grade cleaning solutions.
- CHS has purchased the maximum amount allowable of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies and other inventory required to remain operational.

At this time there is no evidence to support that companion animals can develop the disease or transmit the disease to humans or animals. To date, there have not been any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Canadian Public Health Service are recommending that pet owners who have been diagnosed with COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with their pets including snuggling, kissing pets or sleeping in the same bed
- Wash their hands before touching or feeding their pet
- Do not cough or sneeze on or near their pet
- Don't let the pet have contact with other animals or people

Calgary Humane Society will continue to protect the health and safety of both people and animals, and will continue to monitor this fluid situation closely. Please visit our website at www.calgaryhumane.ca for informational updates as they emerge.